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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*
**Coordination questions: progress report on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001**

## Letter dated 27 April 1998 from the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Chairperson of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

I have the honour to refer to item 5, entitled "Coordination questions", of the provisional agenda of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session. Under this item, the Committee is expected to consider the progress report on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001. It will be recalled that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/34 of 25 July 1996, the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Council in 1998, through the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session, a progress report on the implementation of the plan. When the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 at its thirty-sixth session (E/1996/16), it had before it, in addition to the revised plan, the comments of the Commission on the Status of Women thereon (E/AC.51/1996/5). The Committee had agreed to conduct a progress review at some stage during the next four years, preferably in 1998, or in 2000 (A/51/16 (Part I), para. 168).

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-second session, had before it the requested report on the mid-term review (E/CN.6/1998/3). Following its consideration of the report, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women 1996-2001, including the status of women in the Secretariat", as contained in the report of the Commission (E/1998/27).

In this draft resolution, the Council would, *inter alia*, endorse the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General. It would urge the Secretary-General to

* E/AC.51/1998/1.

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ensure that obstacles encountered in the implementation of the plan are dealt with effectively. The Council would stress the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the formulation and implementation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, notably at the country level, as well as in the consideration of the triennial policy review of operational activities during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly. The Council would welcome the work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, and would request the United Nations Development Group to institute guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action through operational activities for development of the United Nations funds and programmes. The Council would also address the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000.

I should be grateful if the contents of the draft resolution could be brought to the attention of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for its information.

(*Signed*) Patricia **Flor**